

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 22, 2004
MINUTES (Revised)**

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas, Vice Chairman Brown, Councilman Calhoun, Councilman Forrester, Councilman Gunnells, Councilman Walker and Councilman Norris.

ABSENT: None

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Larry Walker led in the Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Robert Clark gave the invocation.

Councilman Walker made a motion to reconsider the Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 90-3 to create a new Development Board. Councilman Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Walker made a motion to amend Ordinance to include two (2) statements; 1). Current Board membership continue to serve until July 2004; and 2), must be residents, and/or taxpayers within Abbeville County. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to approve March 8, 2004 Minutes as amended. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1.

Chairman Thomas recognized and explained to all in attendance, the county's policy on public input. He then recognized those that signed up to speak. Ms. Evelyn Bowie, Mr. Paul Bell, Mr. Michael Frye and Dr. Martin Canerol, all of the Abbeville County Hospital; all of which spoke in favor of the Ordinance authorizing the construction of a new hospital. Chairman Thomas then concluded the public input section of the agenda.

Chairman Thomas then made two presentations to former County Council Chairmen, Larry Walker and Ernest "Ray" Gunnells who were presented with plaques in recognition of their dedicated service to the residents of Abbeville County while serving as Chairmen of the Abbeville County Council. Both received a round of applause.

Chairman Thomas made a motion to move after Executive Session; Vice Chairman Scott Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairman Thomas then made a motion to move third reading of an Ordinance regarding the issuance of Revenue Bonds for Abbeville County Memorial Hospital to the end of the Agenda. Vice Chairman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve third reading of an ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Maps for Abbeville, County, South Carolina on a 100+ acre tract of land known as Hunter's Creek Subdivision as shown on the original tax map number 099-00-00-26 from Forest Agriculture (FA) to R-8 (one family residential). Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Vice Chairman Brown made a motion to give third reading to an ordinance to amend the FY 03-04 budget for Abbeville County by incorporating \$75,323 in additional grant revenues and appropriating the same for the Library Board. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Walker made a motion to withdraw second reading of an ordinance to approve the FY 04-05 budget for Abbeville County. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris made a motion to approve second reading of an ordinance amending the official zoning maps for Abbeville County, South Carolina, for a 7 acre tract of land on Highway 201 from Forest Agriculture (FA) to Light Industrial (LI) and General Residential (GR). Vice Chairman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Vice Chairman Brown made a motion to approve second reading of an ordinance to provide for minimum procedures and appeal processes for naming and renaming of roads in Abbeville County, to include private roads, where emergency responders will access in the event of calls for assistance and to repeal Ordinance Number 97-13. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

A motion was made by councilman Gunnells to approve second reading of an ordinance to amend Section 804 of the Abbeville County Zoning Ordinance so as to add Section 804.4-Temporary Housing. Councilman Forrester seconded the motion. After discussion by several council members, both Councilmen Gunnells and Forrester withdrew their motions. Councilman Gunnells then made a motion to table second reading. Councilman Walker seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0. Chairman Thomas the requested the matter to be sent to County Attorney to further research the legal definition of a dwelling to determine if it applies to campers and/or recreational vehicles.

Councilman Brown made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the County Director to issue an encroachment permit to Bell-South Telephone, 218 College Street, Greenville, South Carolina, to bore under Cathy Lane. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Director Burns then gave an overall presentation on the outcome of the County Council retreat at Hickory Knob State Park on March 4-6. He highlighted the four major areas of concern by the department heads, elected officials and appointed officials. These four concerns are technology, the need to new equipment, additional staffing and compensation. He then highlighted many of the goals and priorities set by the current council for the upcoming year. Director Burns then mentioned that the final audit and management letter were provided to the council members. And finally, Director Burns discussed the possibility of refinancing the County Office Building. He mentioned that County Treasurer Judy Scott has spoken with the bond counsel about this possibility, and thanked her for her efforts. He mentioned that her efforts could result in the saving of approximately \$68,000 and a decrease in the number of years on the loan by four. He stated that he looked forward to working with her on this project if council agrees to move forward. Though no vote was taken the Council agreed to proceed forward with this issue.

No committee reports were made.

Councilman Gunnells made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice and to discuss a contractual matter. Councilman Calhoun seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairman Thomas then reconvened the meeting. County Attorney Roper then discussed County procedures regarding necessary readings for approval of bond issuances. He stated that according to County Ordinance, any Ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds must be read at three consecutive regularly scheduled council meetings. Therefore one more additional reading would need to take place on the Hospital Bond issue before it would be final, and that reading would have to take place on April 12, 2004.

Vice Chairman Brown then made a motion to amend the Hospital Bond Ordinance by adding section 13 to the ordinance regarding the creation of an escrow agent to provide for the delivery of hospital property to the County at a specified time and other matters related thereto. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Norris then made a motion to approve the Hospital Bond Ordinance as amended. Vice Chairman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-1-0. Councilman Forrester voted against the motion.

Councilman Norris then made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned.

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ABSENT: None

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Councilman Larry Walker led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Robert Clark gave the invocation.

Councilman Larry made a motion to reconsider third reading of the Ordinance amending the ordinance creating and establishing a new Development Board. Councilman Forrester seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Councilman Walker then made a motion to amend the Development Board ordinance to include two statements: 1) that the current Board membership shall continue to serve until July 1, 2004; and, 2) that board members must be residents and/or taxpayers within Abbeville County. Councilman Norris seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

Chairman Thomas then stated for the record that both the Press and Banner and the Index Journal were notified of the meeting and that the meeting was posted on County Buildings as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

Councilman Norris then made a motion to approve the March 8, 2004, minutes as amended. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0-1. Vice Chairman Brown abstained.

Chairman Thomas then explained to all in attendance the county's policy on public comment. He then recognized those that signed up to speak during the public comment period. Ms. Evelyn Bowie, Mr. Paul Bell, Mr. Michael Frye and Dr. Martin Canero all spoke in favor of the Ordinance authorizing the construction of a new hospital. Chairman Thomas then concluded the public comment section of the agenda.

Chairman Thomas then made two presentations to former Chairmen of County Council. Former Chairmen Walker and Gunnells were presented with plaques in recognition of their dedicated service to the residents of Abbeville County while serving as Chairmen of the Abbeville County Council. Both received a round of applause.

Chairman Thomas then made a motion to move third reading of an ordinance regarding the issuance of Revenue Bonds for Abbeville County Memorial Hospital to the end of the agenda. Vice Chairman Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

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Councilman Norris then made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Gunnells seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0-0.

The meeting adjourned.